APPLE COMICS

Robert Asprin and Ken & Beth Mitchroney

WARP GRAPHICS

Myth Conceptions™

No. 6
$1.95
$2.60 in Canada

HEROES WON... DRAGONS TWO!!

Our Story So Far . . .

In the dimension of Klah, young Skeeve became apprentice to the wizard Garkin. One day, Garkin transported a fellow magician from the dimension of Perv, the "demon" Aahz, to Klah. As a prank, Garkin put a spell on Aahz which removed his powers. But before Garkin could remove the spell, he was murdered

So Skeeve became apprentice to Aahz, who, even though powerless, still retained all his knowledge of magik. Together, they tracked down Isstvan, the magician behind Garkin's murder.

Along the way they enlisted the aid of the dull-witted demon hunter, Quigley, and visited Deva, site of an interdimensional bazaar, where they met Tananda, the beautiful assassin/magician. It was also at Deva that Skeeve adopted his pet dragon, Gleep (or was it the other way around?).

Afterwards, Aahz and Skeeve took over Isstvan's former base of operations, an old country inn, to continue Skeeve's education.

But Aahz's greed got in the way and after two successive get-rich-quick schemes backfired, they found themselves poorer than ever, with the inn on the verge of bankruptcy.

Things began looking up, however, when Skeeve was summoned to apply to become magician to the court of King Rodrick the Fifth of Possiltum. They decided to stage a role reversal — Aahz posing as the apprentice while he taught Skeeve to act like a powerful sorcerer.

Arriving in Possiltum, Aahz shrewdly gained the favor of King Rodrick's Chancellor, J.R. Grimble, who controlled the purse strings in the kingdom. On Grimble's advice, King Rodrick gave Skeeve the job. But Skeeve's first assignment called for real magikal skills: stop the army approaching from the north — or die trying.

Even worse, General Badaxe, Commander of the Royal Armies of Possiltum (and Grimble's chief rival), didn't want competition from magicians — he gave orders to his troops that, even if Aahz and Skeeve succeeded, they were not to return to Possiltum alive!

But then Tananda (Tanda to her friends) showed up with a D-hopper. They used it to transfer themselves to Deva, where, quite by accident, Skeeve recruited a raggedy squad of misfits and has-beens to help them. Returning to Klah, our intrepid heroes began preparing for the fight to come. Aahz and Skeeve met with Claude, commander of the opposing forces, and set a time for their first (and possibly last!) battle — noon tomorrow. Unfortunately, Ajax, the aged archer from the dimension Archia, fell asleep on his first assignment, causing everyone to worry whether he could be relied on in combat. Ashamed, Ajax announced his decision to quit . . .

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Myth Conceptions™

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Printing 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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I RESIGN! SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY DECENT THING TO DO AFTER LETTIN' YOU DOWN AND SLEEPIN' ON THE JOB!

JUST A MINUTE! ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME YOU'RE *BREAKING* OUR *CONTRACT*? I EXPECT *BETTER* FROM A GENUINE *ARCHER*!

HEROES DRAGONS

ADAPTED BY *BETH & KEN MITCHRONEY*
ART BY *KEN MITCHRONEY*
LETTERS BY *GARY FIELDS*
EDITS BY *RICHARD PINI*
CLEAN UPS BY *JIM KUNKLE*

I WOULDN'T CALL IT A BREACH OF CONTRACT, YOUNGSTER-- MORE LIKE TERMINATION BY MUTUAL CONSENT.

I'M JES' TOO OLD!

OLD? I KNEW YOU WERE OLD WHEN I HIRED YOU. I KNEW YOU WERE OLD WHEN I PLANNED TOMORROW'S STRATEGY AROUND THAT BOW OF YOURS. I KNEW YOU WERE *OLD*, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A *COWARD!*

WOOOOO

SONNY, I *KNOW* I'M OLD, 'CAUSE IN MY *YOUNGER* DAYS, I WOULDA *KILLED* YOU FOR SAYIN' THAT! I *NEVER* RUN FROM A FIGHT IN MY LIFE, AND I *NEVER* BROKE A CONTRACT! IF YOU GOT SOME *SHOOTIN'* FOR ME TO DO TOMORROW, I'LL *DO* IT. *THEN* YOU'LL SEE WHAT HAVIN' A *GENUINE ARCHER* ON YOUR SIDE IS ALL ABOUT!

FIT RITE MAIL ORDER CASKET CO.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE ALL WONDERING WHY I DID THAT.

I APPRECIATE ALL YOUR ADVICE, AND I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO GIVE IT. BUT I'M LEADING THIS FORCE AND THE FINAL DECISION IS MINE. EVERYONE--INCLUDING AJAX--SAID IF I LET HIM GO THERE'D BE NO HARM DONE. I DISAGREE.

HE *ACCEPTED* THAT RISK. I'D RATHER HE BE KILLED IN BATTLE THAN CONDEMN HIM TO A LIVING DEATH AS A WASHED-UP BARFLY. THIS WAY HE HAS A *CHANCE*, AND AS HIS EMPLOYER, I *OWE* HIM THAT CHANCE.

IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN AWAY THE ONE THING YEARS HAVEN'T TOUCHED--HIS *PRIDE*. IT WOULD HAVE CONFIRMED HIS WORST FEAR--THAT HE'S BECOME A USELESS OLD MAN. SO HE MIGHT GET KILLED--*SO WHAT?*

ONE MORE THING. NO MORE TALK ABOUT BEING USELESS. THAT OLD MAN HANDLES A BOW BETTER THAN ANYONE I'VE SEEN. IF I CAN'T FIND A WAY TO USE HIM EFFECTIVELY, IT'S *MY* FAULT. I'VE GOT MY SHORTCOMINGS, BUT I WON'T BLAME THEM ON AJAX ANY MORE THAN I'LL BLAME ANY OF YOU.

FOR THE RECORD, BOSS, IT'S A *REAL PLEASURE* WORKING FOR YOU.

RIGHT.

YOU KNOW, KID, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A PRETTY GOOD LEADER SOME DAY--

--*IF* YOU LIVE THAT LONG. NOW, IF IT ISN'T PRYING, WHAT'S THIS "MASTER STRATEGY"?

I HAVEN'T GOT ONE. I WAS HOPING *YOU'D* HAVE A FEW IDEAS.

I WAS *AFRAID* YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT. LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME PLANNING TO DO.

WAKE UP, KID! IT'S NEARLY *WAR TIME!*

ZZZZZZZZZZZEEEOOOW!

BUNT!

AWOOGAZ

WOK

AS LEADER OF THIS TEAM, I'VE REACHED ANOTHER DECISION! IN THE FUTURE, I WANT *TANDA* TO WAKE ME UP!

NOT A CHANCE! SHE'S SCOUTING OUR RIGHT FLANK! IT'S ME OR THE DRAGON.

HURRY UP! YOU'VE GOT ONE MINUTE BEFORE THINGS START POPPING!

HOW LONG?

WAIT -- AN *HOUR*. THAT'S IT. I'M STILL HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR KLAH-DISH TIME UNITS.

HAVE YOU BRIEFED EVERYBODY?

AS MUCH AS I CAN, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED. WE LET YOU SLEEP AS LATE AS WE COULD, BUT YOU NEED TO REVIEW THE TROOPS.

OLD CLAUDE'S BEEN MAKING THE MOST OF THE TIME WE GAVE HIM. SINCE SUN-UP, THEY'VE BEEN DRILLING-- AND SHARPENING SWORDS.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN THE EMPIRE'S ARMY!

YOU JUST MISSED BROCKHURST'S REPORT. STILL NOTHING ON THE LEFT FLANK.

POMPF!

WOULDN'T WE BE ABLE TO TELL FROM THEIR SIGNALS IF THEY WERE MOVING UP ADDITIONAL SUPPORT?

IF YOU BELIEVE THE SIGNALS. THE ARMY MAY HAVE FIGURED OUT WE'VE BROKEN THEIR CODE AND IS SENDING MISLEADING INFORMATION. AND SPEAKING OF MESSAGES, REMEMBER THE ONES YESTERDAY THAT WENT "ENCOUNTERED MINOR RESISTANCE"?

OVERNIGHT WE'VE BECOME "ARMED OPPOSITION-- MUST BE SUBDUED FORCEFULLY"! CLAUDE HAS TURNED DOWN *EVERY* OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. HE INSISTS HE CAN HANDLE IT.

SEEMS CLAUDE HAS UPPED THE ANTE TO GET A PROMOTION OUT OF THIS.

I'D SAY HE'S GOT HIS NECK *WAY, WAY* OUT!

AND WE'RE JUST THE ONES TO CHOP IT OFF FOR HIM.

WHERE'S AJAX?

DOWN AT THE FOREST LINE, SEARCHING OUT A FIRING POINT. DON'T WORRY, BOSS. HE'S *AWAKE!*

MORNIN', YOUNGSTER! THINK I GOT US A PLACE ALL PICKED OUT.'

HI, AJAX. UM, WHEN YOU GET A MINUTE, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

THINK NOTHIN' OF IT. I'VE PLUMB FORGOT ABOUT IT ALREADY!

I HATE TO INTERRUPT, BUT FRIEND CLAUDE'S ABOUT TO MAKE HIS MOVE. DO YOUR STUFF WITH GUS, IT'S TIME WE GOT INTO POSITION.

NOT BAD, KID. IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, GUS, YOUR STONE SKIN NOT ONLY WILL PROTECT YOU-- BUT ME TOO!

YOU ALL SET? WELL, FOLLOW ME, YOUNGSTER! I DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF *THIS!*

I'M CHECKING THE ENERGY LINES. I CAN STORE THE FORCE INTERNALLY, AND FOR THIS, I WANT *ALL* THE POWER I CAN GET.

THERE THEY ARE, MEN--LET FLY!

POING

FWANG

TANG

GANG

CHANG

PANG

PLANG

FIRE!

ZLING!

TING

TANG

TWORNG

SNAP

VIP

DRAW YOUR SWORDS AND CUT THEM DOWN!

VING

ZIP

ZIP

OKAY, YOUNGSTER, READY WHEN YOU ARE!

GIVE ME A GOOD, STEADY RAPID FIRE, AJAX.

FANG!

FOOF!

GUS AND THAT AAHZ FELLA ARE IN TROUBLE AGAIN. THINK YOU'D BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?

WAIT A SECOND, AJAX.

FOONK!

MATTEL

FLIP!

AWOOGA!

WHOOEE!! THAT DID IT! LOOK AT'EM RUN! YOU'D THINK THOSE FELLERS NEVER SEED A PER-VERT BEFORE!

THEY PROBABLY HAVEN'T!

THEM FELLERS RAN OFF SO FAST THEY FORGOT TO SIGNAL ANYBODY. THINK WE SHOULD DO IT FOR 'EM ? I KNOW THE CODES, AND YOU'RE A MAGICIAN. I COULD TELL YOU WHAT SIGNAL TO RUN UP-- WE NEED A SKULL AND A COUPLE PIECES OF RED CLOTH, AND A BLACK BALL, AND--

THERE'S AN EASIER WAY--WATCH THIS!

BOOM!

YER PRETTY GOOD -- AN' IF YOU CAN DO THAT, YOU DIDN'T REALLY NEED ME AND BLACKIE TO HANDLE THOSE WAGONS. KINDA STRANGE, YOU GOIN' TO ALL THAT TROUBLE JES' TO CONVINCE ME I'M NOT USELESS.

YOU'RE *NOT* USELESS. JUST BECAUSE SOMETIMES YOU'RE NOT NECESSARY DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE USELESS. EVEN *I'M* OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW *THAT!*

DANGED IF YOU AREN'T RIGHT, YOUNG--SKEEVE. GUESS I KNEW IT TOO, BUT I PLUMB FERGOT FER AWHILE. LET'S GO GET SOME WINE FROM YER DRAGON'S CASK SO I CAN THANK YOU PROPER FER REMINDIN' ME!

BAM!

OVER HERE, KID. WE'VE GOT SOME PLANNING TO DO!

THAT'S PART OF BEIN' A GENERAL--IT AIN'T ALL SPEECHES AN' GLORY! GO ON AHEAD-- I'LL DO MY DRINKIN' WITH TH' BOYS!

TANDA HERE BROUGHT ALONG A FEW SPECIAL EFFECTS ITEMS I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT.

WOMP

NOTHING SPECTACULAR. I FIGURED WE'D BE ON A *TIGHT BUDGET*, SO I STUCK TO THE BASICS.

JUST *SHOW* HIM, HUH? SPARE US THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS!

FIRST OFF, I THOUGHT WE COULD USE A LITTLE FLASH POWDER. IT NEVER FAILS TO IMPRESS THE YOKELS.

YOU SET FIRE TO IT. IT BURNS FAST AND GIVES OFF A CLOUD OF SMOKE.

I'VE GOT ABOUT A DOZEN BAGS OF IT, VARIOUS COLORS AND SIZES.

CAN I TRY ONE? I'VE NEVER WORKED WITH THIS STUFF BEFORE.

SURE! THEY'RE YOURS TO DO WITH AS YOU SEE FIT. YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

BETTER TOSS IT TO THE GROUND, KID. SOME FOLKS CAN SET IT OFF IN THEIR HAND, BUT THAT TAKES PRACTICE. IF YOU TRIED THAT, YOU'D PROBABLY LOSE YOUR ARM!

FOOF!

TAKE IT EASY. WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH OF THE STUFF!

THAT'S *NEAT!*

WHAT ELSE DO YOU HAVE, TANDA?

I GUESS *THIS* WOULD BE THE PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE.

WHAT IS IT?

FVOOZK!

INVISIBILITY! A CLOAK OF INVISIBILITY!

COULDN'T AFFORD ONE. I HAD TO SETTLE FOR A *SWEET* OF INVISIBILITY. IT'S COARSER THAN A CLOAK, BUT IT'S BIG ENOUGH TO HIDE NEARLY ANY ONE OF US, EXCEPT MAYBE GUS. IT WORKS LIKE A ONE-WAY GLASS, SKEEVE. I CAN SEE YOU, BUT YOU CAN'T SEE ME.

HEY, *BOSS!* WE'VE GOT *COMPANY!* THE GREMLIN SAYS THERE'S SOME KIND OF GROUP FORMING DOWN IN THE MEADOW!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING, AAHZ?

I CAN SEE THAT! WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR?

STANDING AND WAITING...

PROBABLY FOR US-- FOR A WAR COUNCIL! BUT DON'T GO DOWN RIGHT AWAY-- LET'EM SWEAT A LITTLE. THEY KEPT US WAITING THE FIRST TIME!

ONE HOUR LATER...

LET ME UNROLL THIS INVISIBILITY SHEET AND WE'RE READY, AAHZ.

LET'S GO SEE WHAT THEY WANT.

YOU WISH A MEETING?

WE WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOUR MASTER!

HE'S KINDA BUSY RIGHT NOW. ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

I AM THE COMMANDER OF THIS SECTOR! I DEMAND TO SEE SKEEVE, COMMANDER OF THE DEFENSE, NOT HIS LACKEY!

IF YOU INSIST. BUT HE WON'T BE HAPPY!

I'M NOT HERE TO MAKE HIM HAPPY! BE OFF WITH YOU!

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. HE'S A MAGICIAN, AND HEARS AND SEES WHAT HIS SERVANTS HEAR AND SEE. HE'LL BE ALONG.

BOOM!F!

:SNIFF: AH-GEE--AHH GEE GEE :SNIFF: AGEEE--AAAA!:

STEADY, MASTER! DON'T LET YOUR ANGER OVERCOME YOUR REASON! THEY DON'T KNOW THE POWERS THEY TRIFLE WITH!

I DID NOT WISH TO BE DISTURBED!

SWACK!

WE--UMM--APOLOGIZE FOR BOTHERING YOU, BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN MATTERS REQUIRING YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. SPECIFICALLY, THE *WAR* IN WHICH WE CURRENTLY ARE ENGAGED.

I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE, SIR. YOU SEEM TO KNOW ME, BUT I DON'T RECALL HAVING MET YOU BEFORE.

WE HAVE *NOT* MET BEFORE. IF WE HAD, BE ASSURED *ONE* OF US WOULD NOT BE HERE CURRENTLY. I KNOW YOU BY REPUTATION, SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR RECENT EFFORTS TO RESIST THE ADVANCE OF OUR ARMY. FOR MYSELF, I AM *ANTONIO*, COMMANDER OF THE RIGHT WING OF THE LEFT FLANK OF THE EMPIRE'S ARMY. THESE ARE MY OFFICERS.

WHERE IS CLAUDE? I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION *HE* WAS AN OFFICER IN THIS SECTOR.

YOU ARE CORRECT-- HE *WAS*. HE CURRENTLY IS BEING RETAINED UNTIL HE CAN BE PROPERLY COURT-MARTIALED-- FOR INCOMPETENCE!

INCOMPETENCE? COME NOW, SIR. AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE HARSH? CLAUDE MAY HAVE OVERSTEPPED HIS ABILITIES A BIT, BUT HE *WAS* DEALING WITH SUPER-NATURAL POWERS--

--IF YOU KNOW WHAT I *MEAN!*

YES, YES. WE HAVE HAD REPORTS-- *MANY* REPORTS-- ABOUT YOUR RAPPORT WITH DEMONS. CLAUDE'S INCOMPETENCE LIES IN HIS DISASTROUS UNDERESTIMATION OF THE FORCES OPPOSING HIM. BE ASSURED I WILL NOT BE GUILTY OF THE SAME ERROR.

EEEK!!

WHAT HE SAID!!

SEND HELP!! MYTH CONCEPTIONS #6 PAGE 14, PANEL 5 AND HURRY!!

DON'T COUNT ON IT, TONY. WE DEMONS CAN BE A PRETTY TRICKY LOT!

WE ARE NOT HERE FOR IDLE PLEASANTRIES. I BELIEVE WE HAVE A DISPUTE TO SETTLE CONCERNING RIGHT OF PASSAGE OVER THIS PARTICULAR PIECE OF TERRAIN.

WE HAVE A DISPUTE CONCERNING YOUR RIGHT OF PASSAGE OVER THE *KINGDOM* OF *POSSILTUM!*

-:YAWN:- YES, YES. OF COURSE IF YOU WANT TO STOP US FROM GAINING POSSILTUM, YOU HAD *BEST* STOP US *HERE!*

THAT'S ABOUT HOW WE FIGURED IT!

NOT TO BELABOR THE POINT--BUT I BELIEVE WE *DO* HAVE YOU STOPPED!

TEMPORARILY. I EXPECT *THAT* SITUATION TO *CHANGE SHORTLY*--SHALL WE SAY, A FEW HOURS AFTER DAWN, TOMORROW?

WE'LL BE THERE!

JUST A MOMENT. YOU STRIKE ME AS BEING A SPORTING MAN. WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE OUR ENCOUNTER TOMORROW A TOUCH MORE INTERESTING--SAY, WITH A LITTLE *WAGER?*

SUCH AS *WHAT?*

IF YOU LOSE TOMORROW, WILL YOU ADMIT CLAUDE'S DEFEAT HAD *NOTHING* TO DO WITH INCOMPETENCE AND DROP THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM?

DONE. NORMALLY I WOULD FEAR THE REACTION OF MY SUPERIORS, BUT I AM CONFIDENT OF MY VICTORY. THERE ARE THINGS AGAINST WHICH EVEN A *DEMON* CANNOT STAND!

SUCH AS?--

YOU WILL SEE TOMORROW!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, AAHZ?

THINK? I THINK YOU'RE GOING SOFT, KID. FIRST BROCKHURST, NOW CLAUDE. WHAT *IS* THIS "BE KIND TO ENEMIES" KICK YOU'RE ON?

BOP BOP BOP!

I MEANT ABOUT *TOMORROW!*

I DUNNO, KID. HE SOUNDED TOO CONFIDENT FOR COMFORT. I WISH I KNEW WHAT HE'S GOT UP HIS SLEEVE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO STOP *DEMONS!*

SKEEVE, THE EMPIRE'S SOLDIERS HAVE BROUGHT IN SOME HEAVY-DUTY EQUIPMENT, BUT WE CAN'T SEE WHAT IT IS.

IT'S IN A BOX SO HUGE IT TAKES SEVERAL MEN STRAINING JUST TO BUDGE IT!

BOSS, I COULD FLY OVERHEAD TO GET A PEEK INSIDE.

NO WAY. RIGHT NOW, NOBODY ON THEIR SIDE KNOWS WE HAVE A *GARGOYLE* WORKING FOR US. EVEN IF YOU'RE DISGUISED, THEY MIGHT SEE YOU *FLYING.*

THAT'S TRUE. THEY KEEP THE BOX SURROUNDED.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A ROUGH ENOUGH CAMPAIGN THIS TIME WITHOUT SHOWING THE OPPOSITION ALL OF OUR CARDS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST, AND I'D LIKE US TO KEEP OUR SECRETS AS LONG AS WE CAN!

NEXT DAY...

RELAX, KID. YOU LOOK NERVOUS!

I *AM* NERVOUS! WE'RE STANDING OUT HERE WAITING TO FIGHT AND WE DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTING. THAT MAKES ME A TRIFLE *EDGY*!

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, KID. WE KNOW WHAT WE *AREN'T* UP AGAINST. IT'S NOT *SOLDIERS*-- THERE'S BEEN NO EFFORT TO ORGANIZE OR ARM THEM. THEY'RE GOING TO BE A BUNCH OF SPECTATORS.

HEADS UP, KID. WHATEVER'S GOING TO HAPPEN IS ABOUT TO.

DO NOT OPEN 'TIL ISSUE 6!

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS, KID.

WHATEVER THEY'VE GOT KID, HERE IT COMES!

WOW!

TIME FOR THE BETTER PART OF VALOR, KID! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

WAIT A MINUTE, AAHZ! DO YOU SEE WHAT THE KEEPER'S HOLDING?

I'VE *SEEN* A PENDANT LIKE THAT! IT'S HOW HE'S CONTROLLING THE DRAGON. THE DEVEEL RUNNING THE DRAGON STALL WHERE I FOUND GLEEP HAD A PENDANT JUST LIKE IT! I DON'T NEED ONE BECAUSE I *FEED* GLEEP!

SKREEEK!

WELL, DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE KID! *GET IT!*

I--I CAN'T GET IT, AAHZ! HE WON'T LET GO!

THEN HIGHTAIL IT OUTTA HERE, KID. TELL AJAX TO BAG THE KEEPER AND HAVE GUS STAND BY WITH BERFERT JUST IN CASE. I'LL TRY TO KEEP THE DRAGON BUSY!

SHOVE!

YOU GO! IT'S MY WAR AND MY JOB!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, KID. JUST GET THAT PENDANT!

LOOK OUT, KID!

VOOOSH!

GLEEP! GET BACK HERE!

WOMPH!

WRGGH!

SWOOOSH!

GLEEP!

WOMP!

WOOF!

WOOF!

ROZAFRAZA ROWTHAVOW!

GOOROVA-ZOVA ROOBAVORTA...

?

FROOOO!

GLEEP!
GLEEP!
GLEEP!
WOOF!
?
?
YOU CHARLATAN! YOU FRAUD! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU COULD CONTROL THIS BEAST! YOU'VE MADE MY ARMY--AND ME!--A LAUGHING-STOCK! IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING PAID--

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER WITH THE DRAGON--

HERE! YOU HANDLE HIM!

ZING!

VLING!

RONCO SERPENT CONTROL

POCK!

POW!

ZLING!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. I *SAW* IT, BUT I STILL DON'T *BELIEVE* IT.

Z.

GLEEP!

HI, FELLA! WHAT *HAPPENED* OUT THERE, ANYWAY?

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THE ONLY ANSWER I'M GONNA GET. BUT *LOOK*, AAHZ! WE WON'T HAVE TO *WORRY* ABOUT *THAT*-- OR ANY *OTHER* DRAGON! WE'VE SHOWN A *PROFIT!*

SO WE DID, BUT DO ME A FAVOR, OKAY, KID? IF THAT DRAGON--OR ANY OTHER DRAGON-- WANDERS INTO OUR CAMP, DON'T FEED IT! WE HAVE *ONE* DRAGON, AND THAT'S ABOUT ALL MY NERVES CAN STAND!

SNAP!

IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME, KID, IF WE HAVE OUR NEXT WAR COUNCIL *REAL SOON*. BUT I THINK WE ALL CAN USE A BREAK TONIGHT!

VOOBA! VOOBA! VOOBA!

YEAH-- ESPECIALLY OUR *BRAVE DRAGON!*

WINK!

I AM COMMANDER OF THE LAST FLANK OF THE EMPIRE'S ARMY. I BELIEVE THERE'S A DISAGREEMENT.

AND I AM SKEEVE, DEFENDER OF POSSILTUM. THE DISAGREEMENT IS IN THE PLANS FOR POSSILTUM.

SO YOU'D LIKE US TO SURRENDER.

OR WITH-DRAW-- OR TURN ASIDE.

FRANKLY, WE DON'T *CARE* WHAT YOU DO-- AS LONG AS YOU *LEAVE POSSILTUM ALONE!*

WE'VE ACTUALLY BEEN CONSIDERING DOING JUST THAT.

IS *THAT* WHY YOU'VE BEEN MOVING UP ADDITIONAL TROOPS ALL DAY LONG?

HEY!

WHAT MY COLLEAGUE *MEANS* IS WE FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE ACTUALLY PLANNING TO CONCEDE TO OUR PLANS!

WHY NOT? THAT *IS* WHAT YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR, ISN'T IT? THERE COMES A POINT WHEN A COMMANDER MUST ASK HIMSELF IF IT WON'T COST HIM MORE DEARLY TO FIGHT A BATTLE THAN TO PASS IT BY. SO FAR, THE RESISTANCE OF YOUR DEMONS AND DRAGONS HAS SHOWN US THIS BATTLE COULD BE DIFFICULT INDEED.

THERE ARE MORE WHERE *THEY* CAME FROM.

SO YOU'VE DEMONSTRATED. WITCHES AND DEVILS MAKE AN IMPRESSIVE ADDITION TO YOUR FORCE.

THEN YOU AGREE TO BYPASS POSSILTUM?

I AGREE TO DISCUSS IT WITH MY OFFICERS.

ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU LEAVE ONE OF YOUR--AH-- *ASSISTANTS* BEHIND!

WHAT FOR?

TO BRING YOU WORD OF OUR DECISION, OF COURSE! NONE OF MY MEN WOULD *DARE* ENTER YOUR CAMP, EVEN GRANTED A MESSENGER'S IMMUNITY!

I'LL STAY, SKEEVE.

PAT PAT PAT

ONLY IF YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE US ONE OF YOUR OFFICERS IN RETURN AS A HOSTAGE! HE NEED NOT ENTER OUR CAMP. HE CAN REMAIN ON THE EDGE OF THE TREE LINE IN FULL VIEW OF YOUR FORCE. I PERSONALLY WILL GUARANTEE HIS SAFETY.

VERY WELL. SINCE YOU HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST IN HIS CAREER...

...I WILL GIVE YOU CLAUDE.

AGREED. WE WILL AWAIT YOUR DECISION!

NEXT ISSUE: THINGS REALLY HEAT UP IN...

HOT CROSSED PERVERTS!